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No Legislation by Conference.
The radical and revolutionary tax legislation proposed by the District bill conference is doubly vicious, first in its gross unfairness in substance and on its merits or demerits, and second in the offensive inequity of the proposed manner of enactment, not only as a legislative rider on an appropriation bill, but as confessedly new and drastic legislation by conference.

The evils inherent in legislation by rider on appropriation bills are thoroughly understood. Both Senate and House have declared vigorously against it. The House has shown recently a firm determination to enforce its prohibition.

But the vital legislation which the conferees now propose is solely their own. It is not either the House proposition or the Senate proposition, or a combination of the two.

The conferees usurp the functions and encroach upon the jurisdiction of the House or Senate District committees. They would make law of proposals which in substance have been overwhelmingly negated by the Senate when submitted for consideration by the Senate District committee. They deny in effect to the people of the District in respect to vital questions of taxation even the right of petition, which, coupled with the obligation to pay, is the sole remaining American privilege of the District taxpayer. The capital community is to have its tax system revolutionized, its taxes on realty and intangibles heavily and unnecessarily increased and its high cost of living sent further skyward by conferees' legislation, to be acted upon immediately, without warning, without hearing and without the opportunity to petition or protest.

The District subcommittees of the appropriations committees have fulfilled conscientiously and intelligently the appropriations committees' lawful function of appropriating. The Senate subcommittee has labored enthusiastically and effectively to meet some vital unmet municipal needs of the District like those affecting water supply, schools and streets. Washington gratefully appreciates what the conferees, representing both houses, have agreed upon in promotion of the capital's well being in exercise of the committee's proper appropriative function.

Why should not the appropriations committees of their own motion withdraw from consideration the conferees' legislative proposals, and leave them to be worked out into laws through the regular channels of the District legislative committees and through hearings recognizing the community's right to petition and protest?

No interviewer need trouble to ask Lady Astor about her "impressions of America"; everybody knows that they are intelligently formed and altogether pleasant.

Uncle Sam, Banker or Guardian.
The conference proposal in regard to District taxes, present and prospective, puts Uncle Sam in the attitude of a distrustful and suspicious banker toward a depositor and borrower, without collateral and without credit. He must have in hand on deposit in advance all of the money that the depositor will withdraw in the succeeding year, in order to protect himself against temporary overdrafts. But if Uncle Sam stood in the relation of distrustful banker to the capital he would have to recognize certain equities which he now is invited to disregard. In the first place he would have to note that he has already on hand over four millions of dollars of unappropriated, unused tax money belonging to the District. On this surplus and on any new and larger surplus to be formed he would, in accordance with custom, pay interest. On any advances beyond the depositor's balance the banker could reasonably demand interest. Or he could require the capital depositor, instead of making his tax deposits in a lump near the end of the fiscal year, to deposit one-half in October near the beginning of the fiscal year, leaving the other half to be paid as at present in May. To make Uncle Sam's relation thoroughly Shylockian accountants might ascertain microscopically any slight temporary advances made by him even under this arrangement and exact interest for these advances. Of course, in fairness the District, if it is to pay interest on these slight temporary advances, should as an offset be paid interest by Uncle Sam, banker, on its average balance in the Treasury.

But Uncle Sam is not in relation to the District a suspicious banker dealing with a depositor and would-be borrower without collateral and without credit.

He is rather guardian of his capital

ward, in absolute and arbitrary control of his ward and his ward's assets, even to the extreme power of control which he would possess if his ward were non compos mentis.

Like the House Mappes bill of the last Congress, which the Senate overwhelmingly rejected, this provision, which the Senate is now asked to accept, shifts the primary responsibility and obligation of capital maintenance and development from the nation to the local taxpayers, making the former instead of the latter the incidental contributor. This shifting is obviously inequitable.

The nation now practically advances money for District of Columbia appropriations, the amount of which also fixes, and reimburses itself from District taxes, which it imposes and collects. Under the organic act and the present practice the nation bears the primary obligation of capital maintenance and the people of the capital are the incidental contributors. Under this provision the primary obligation is shifted to the local taxpayers, and the nation becomes the incidental contributor, escaping, if it pleases, under the power of unlimited exception, any contribution at all.

Obviously the primary obligation in the arrangement between nation and District taxpayers should be upon that party to it which is protected from loss or risk by possession of all the assets and securities of the combination, which controls absolutely every cent of the money contributed for capital maintenance by both parties, local and national, and which has undivided and despotic power to fix the amount of local tax contribution, to decide by what method of taxation it shall be collected, to collect it, and to spend it. Clearly in equity the primary obligation should not be shifted to the capital, now the incidental contributor, which has no power, or control, even of its own tax money at any stage, and whose sole function in respect to taxation and its financial status is to petition and to pay.

From the beginning the nation's obligation in respect to capital maintenance and upbuilding has been in equity and on principle primary, dominating and (like its power to govern) exclusive and supreme.

Primary and full responsibility both in respect to the control and to the maintenance and upbuilding of the capital is in Congress, representing the nation. Political power and financial obligation are inseparably coupled. If the nation controls it pays, and to the extent that it controls it pays.

Washington is the only capital in the world in which, if certain policies prevail, the nation would do all of the controlling and none of the paying.

Face the Facts.
In an address last night before an international gathering of women in Memorial Continental Hall, Secretary Hughes put his finger on a sore world's sore spot. There is only one cure for the present disorders of the world, he said, and that is by facing the facts.

To face the facts is the one thing which the world appears unwilling or unable to do. Statesmanship today seems to consist chiefly in trying to discover a way to put facts aside, to get around or ignore them. Most of the few European statesmen who have been willing to face the facts and be guided by their unescapable logic have been forced out of office. Yet every day that Europe persists in ignoring facts adds to the weight of her difficulties and the burden of her miseries.

And there were other things in Mr. Hughes' address which Europe might well take to heart. "Credit," he said, "does not precede but follows confidence, and the first requirement of those who demand justice and security is to give justice and security."

The economic conference at Genoa has been because nations which demand justice and security for themselves were not willing to accord it to others. Following the armistice a wave of emotionalism swept over the world, and the nations, in blind disregard of facts, wanted to reconstruct civilization along utopian lines. In the reaction from that emotional wave came, still disregarding facts, seemingly to reconstruct civilization in a way to serve its own peculiar ends, regardless of the rights and vital interests of other nations.

Sir Auckland Geddes, the British ambassador, speaking from the same platform with Secretary Hughes, evidently had this in mind when he said that "governments, pressed by the need, may do things which may lead to disaster." If the statesmen and economists assembled at Genoa could only take to themselves the injunction, "With all thy getting, get understanding," untold miseries might yet be averted, but understanding and clear vision and courageous purpose have not yet, it would seem, been given seats at their council table.

Many a country would consider itself extremely lucky if an occasional strike and riot were its only troubles. If all his knocking is controlled by purpose fair and good. But he who doth direction lack And unto wrath succumb— That knocker never drives a tack But only hits his thumb.

Publicly.
"Why don't you attack the political bosses, as you used to do?" "I have no reason for doing so," replied Senator Borah. "If a political boss is strong enough to warrant an attack, the more you protest the more you advertise his strength."

An Early Bird.
Gov. Cox is entitled to classification as an early bird. Silent for a spell after his unparalleled defeat for President, he has recently found his voice, and is using it freely.

It is worthy of note, too, that he is using his voice by invitation. Democrats are desirous of knowing where he stands on current issues, and in responding he is opening his mind with great frankness.

A few weeks ago Gov. Cox spoke by invitation in New York city, the home until a few months ago of W. G. McAdoo, whom he defeated at San Francisco two years ago for the democratic nomination for President.

Last night he spoke by invitation at Harrisburg, the capital of the home state of A. Mitchell Palmer, another of his San Francisco victims.

The Ohio leader is a prudent man, and deals in round numbers and round phrases. He showed his quality in his campaign of 1920, which though unsuccessful was yet full of breeze and entertainment. He is showing the same quality now. He is giving his friends full return for their politeness in gathering to hear him.

This activity is construed, and is construed, with relation to 1924. It is assumed that Gov. Cox has a second nomination in mind and is already giving his candidacy an airing.

As he is not to have a walkover, we shall probably be hearing from others soon, and thus be enabled to get a line this year on what the democratic campaign of 1924 will be like.

Selling Drugs to Children.

A grand jury in Denver has returned indictments of a number of people for violation of the federal drug laws, and has declared that drug peddlers have piled their trade among the school children of that city. Some of these have sold drugs within a block of one of the high schools.

This is an appalling condition, and it may be suggestive of the need of inquiry elsewhere. There is nothing to indicate that this hideous traffic is peculiar to Denver. The desire to gain trade at any price, regardless of consequences, will drive people to such vile expedients anywhere.

This is not to suggest that the school children of Washington are to be suspected of having fallen victims of such a traffic. But the possibility remains. It would be well worth while to conduct a quiet inquiry along these lines. If such a trade is being piled here, and some of the children have been led to the use of narcotics, it would not be difficult to determine the fact.

There is no punishment adequate for the crime of dispensing habit-forming, system-breaking drugs to boys and girls. The man or woman who does that is guilty of a diabolical offense. It is almost to be rated as worse than murder. Yet with a callousness that cannot be understood this trade is carried on among the young people and elders. Doubtless in most cases the dispensers of these drugs are themselves addicts, their moral senses dulled or destroyed by the habit. Nevertheless, they must prosecute the crime that they are committing and should be held responsible when caught.

This Year's Battle.

The Sixty-eighth Congress is very much in the line of talk these days, and the discussions take a wide range. There is no expectation in any quarter of another such crack-jack result as occurred two years ago. Belief obtains that politics is swinging back to normal, and that November will tell an interesting story.

There are republicans of opinion that the democratic managers have no great desire to control the next Congress; that they are playing for and will be content with a heavy reduction in the present strength of the republicans on Capitol Hill, and on the basis of such an achievement claim a victory for heartening purposes in 1924. Control would impose responsibilities that could not be easily borne on the eve of a presidential campaign.

There are democrats of opinion that the republican managers are convinced of defeat and are working to prevent a rout; that if they can hold the democrats down to a majority in the next House of ten or a dozen they will consider that they still have a chance for 1924.

Some of the talk heard is chaff, indulged in partly for entertainment purposes, and partly for "fishing" purposes. But the levity does not conceal the fact that both parties are going through motions bearing every aspect of earnestness and sincerity, that both will be able to wage war on a large scale, and that both in more or less degree have in all they are now doing 1924 plainly in view.

It is noteworthy that a man regarded as so influential in his time as Wilhelm Hohenzollern should not have been able to contribute a single valuable suggestion to Europe in its reconstruction work.

While the New York Stock Exchange has been reflecting prosperity on a large scale, a number of bucket shops have been systematically spoiling it for the small investor.

European statesmen all agree that if there is another war America will be in it. There is, at any rate, no use of hurrying in order to get in on the ground floor.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Hammer Work.
The knocker wields a hammer bold, And helps his neighborhood. If all his knocking is controlled By purpose fair and good.

But he who doth direction lack And unto wrath succumb— That knocker never drives a tack But only hits his thumb.

Publicly.
"Why don't you attack the political bosses, as you used to do?" "I have no reason for doing so," replied Senator Borah. "If a political boss is strong enough to warrant an attack, the more you protest the more you advertise his strength."

Jud Tunkins says the longest part of a motor trip is going from block to block to find parking space.

Another Question.
This life's a problem through and through, And now there comes a question new, Why should a man keep paying rent? Who has a dither and a tent?

A Man of Importance.
"I understand you are one of Crimson Gutch's most influential and respected citizens." "I am," admitted Cactus Joe. "I own the only complete outfit of cards and poker chips in the place."

"A brave man fears no danger," said Uncle Eben; "but Joe do same only a few dimes' worth of danger."

Insists Authority Now Exists For Erecting Archives Building

THE problem of obtaining a site for the proposed National Archives building in Washington will be solved, provided Secretary of the Treasury Department takes the view of the matter held by Senator Poindexter of Washington, who originated the legislation in 1913 authorizing the preparation of plans for an archives building and who for more than a decade has been a consistent fighter for the erection of the building.

According to the Washington senator, there is ample authority under existing law to proceed with the purchase of a site, and he is inclined to purchase of cause to be taken for public use, by condemnation or otherwise, as a site for said building, any piece of land of the size desired in this section, the purchase of which shall be approved by the said commission.

During the Wilson administration, while the late Champ Clark was Speaker of the House and Thomas Marshall was Vice President, the commission provided for in the act referred to not only approved the designs and estimates for the Archives building, but also a site selected near the present Post Office Department building south of Pennsylvania avenue.

"In my opinion," said Senator Poindexter, discussing the matter, "the provisions of the law have been complied with, and all that is necessary is for the Secretary of the Treasury to go ahead and make the purchase of the site. No specific appropriation for the purchase has been made by Congress, of course, but full authorization has been given, and the Secretary of the Treasury has been directed by Congress to make the purchase."

Senator Poindexter pointed out that it was not necessary for a new commission, consisting of the present preceding officers of the House and Senate and the present secretaries of the Treasury, War and Interior Departments, to be appointed.

EDITORIAL DIGEST

The "Stormy Petrel" Returns.

Probably no subject editorially discussed in the history of the Washington Post has resulted in such a divergence of views as has followed the reporting to the Senate by the finance committee of the amended Fordney tariff bill. In its reported shape it apparently satisfied nobody. Democrats denounced it. Republicans questioned the general changes made by the Senate from the House bill. And the independent press accepted the report more as subject to talk about than anything else. It seemed to be accepted that changes would be made, and that until they actually had been framed, it was just as well to wait patiently and not construct or announce too positive an opinion.

The possibilities for political blackmail are practically unlimited, in the opinion of the New York Evening World (democratic), which sees suggestion of presidential power fix rates as a "club for rewarding the faithful and the generous." The motive compelling the committee in framing it, the New York Times (independent democratic) is convinced, "is the force of habit with which the Baltimore Sun (democratic) to assert that its purpose is to raise prices in the interests of certain classes at the expense of others."

The Springfield (Mass.) Union (republican) calls attention to the fact that "the majority explanation of our business depression has at least the merit of novelty," is stressed by the New York Evening Post (independent), which, however, believes that if the Senate has its way "the tariff will mean disaster to the consumer, while meantime it is going to make trouble for the republican congressmen." In the "economically unsound," the Boston Post (independent democratic) asserts in pointing out that "the tariff is a device for the protection of the few at the expense of the many, and the agricultural bloc, and by throwing values upon the farmer, have secured higher rates than ever on manufactured goods." Which leads the Boston Transcript (independent republican) to suggest that there are "injustices involved in the Senate bill and in the meantime the manufacture of the country is being kept in the hands of the few at the expense of the many, and the agricultural bloc, and by throwing values upon the farmer, have secured higher rates than ever on manufactured goods."

Is It a Crime to Be Fat?
Two or three prominent people have recently announced that "to be fat is a crime!" We assume that they are thin. Without holding any special brief for fat people, we have never found "human skeletons" enchantingly beautiful.

The fat people have apparently no advantage over the thin people—they can reduce, but it has always been a more serious problem for the thin ones to amplify. On the other hand, thin people can keep warm in winter with extra clothing, but fat people cannot keep cool in summer by the opposite process. This is what led Oliver Wendell Holmes to express a wish on his deathbed that he might "lay on his flesh and sit in his bones."

With the sufficient resources at command there is no reason to be unnecessarily fat or noticeably lean. In either case there may be faulty judgment, inadequate information on the subject or illness symptomatically manifesting itself in leanness or obesity. But no sense in it is "crime," among the noblest benefactors of mankind have been those who were very fat or very lean—Buffalo Times (democratic).

Money may talk, but it seems to us that the dollar needs an amplifier—Arkansas Gazette.

About the most popular person on earth is a near-sighted chaperon—Flint (Mich.) Journal.

Greater love hath no man than this that he himself the office force when the team is playing at home—Baltimore Sun.

Shucks! It didn't need that and of \$40,000 in greenbacks in the Potomac river to convince the country that Congress is throwing the people's money away—Richmond Item.

Horses may go out of date in the course of time, but they will always be asses driving automobiles—Athens Globe.

One sorrowful fact discovered by the radio enthusiasts is that it won't make up their gardens—Rochester Herald.

It would be a fine thing if the country's army of bandits and footpads could be mobilized to help in the present desperate effort to sandbag Mississippi—Richmond Times Dispatch.

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"Whatever you earn, spend less"
—poverty is the great enemy to human happiness.

Sage advice, that of Johnson's. To add to it—
What remains—put in bank against the day of opportunity or necessity—
Saving isn't a matter of having a liberal surplus—but of wisely spending. That'll create a surplus even in a meager income.

Don't be scared into saving—but, on the other hand, don't be blinded into profligate spending. Take the middle of the road—spend—and save.

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